

PRESIDENT: The motion carried. The bill is advanced. I believe now LB 273 has been put back on the agenda. Senator Higgins, are you ready to go on that?

CLERK: Mr. President, 273 was a bill introduced by Senator Higgins. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 14, referred to the Public Health Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are Public Health Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, LB 273 is a bill establishing requirements of employment and mandated training program for employees in nursing homes. The committee amendment merely grandfathers in the existing employees in those homes. I move the adoption of the committee amendments at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Senator Wesely. Well, the motion is to adopt the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to 273. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The motion carried. The committee amendments are adopted and, Senator Higgins on the bill.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, this bill requires that nurses aides, orderlies and care staff members merely receive a minimum of forty hours training and do it within ninety days after employment. A nursing home could use a course of training that has already been approved by several nursing home organizations such as the Nebraska Association of Homes for the Aged or the Nebraska Health Care Association or any other course of training that the Department of Health has approved. They could bring their own training manual to the Department of Health also and ask for approval of it. I move the advancement of LB 273.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to advance the bill and the Chair recognizes Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely, do you care to be recognized? Oh, okay. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I am going to have to rise to oppose this bill because I feel that it has a tremendous cost impact to nursing homes. I received several letters from the administrators that